

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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R 241430Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4684

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE-IN

CINCUSAFE-INCFR

HQ USEUCOM

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS ANKARA 6520

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. IN A SERIES OF SPEECHES IN TURKISH THRACE AUGUST 23,
PRIMIN DEMIREL REPORTEDLY WARNED THAT " NO ONE CAN TOUCH
A HAIR OF THE HORA. WE WILL TOUCH THE LIFE OF WHOEVER TOUCHES
A HAIR OF THE SHIP. THE HORA IS A PART OF THE TURKISH
HOMELAND CARRYING THE TURKISH FLAG." AT ANOTHER POINT
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HE WARNED THAT ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO TEST TURKEY'S STRENGTH

"WILL REGRET IT." ASIDE FROM MILLIYET AND HURRIYET, HOWEVER, MOST NEWSPAPERS DID NOT SINGLE OUT THESE STATEMENTS FOR HEADLINES.

2. NOTING THAT THE AEGEAN ISLANDS " WERE OURS FOR 600 YEARS," DEMIREL STATED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL TREATIES RELATING TO THE ISLANDS AND THAT "THE ISLANDS MUST BE DISARMED." REVERTING TO PURELY DOMESTIC POLITICS, HE CHARGED THAT A SEARCH OF GOVERNMENT ARCHIVES HAD REVEALED NO EVIDENCE OF ANY PETROLEUM PROSPECTING IN THE AEGEAN DURING ECEVIT'S TERM AS PRIME MINISTER. DEMIREL HAS PREVIOUSLY SAID THE SURVEY SHIP SENT OUT BY ECEVIT, THE CANDARLI, WAS NOT EQUIPPED FOR MEANINGFUL EXPLORATION) AND HAD TURNED UP NO RPT NO CONTINENTAL SHELF MAP DRAWN UP DURING THAT PERIOD.

3. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL, IN A SPECAIL INTERVIEW WITH HURRIYET'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT AUGUST 23, ECHOED DEMIREL'S EARLIER RESPONSE TO GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS'S MENTION OF TALKS AT ANY LEVEL: " THE BEGINNING OF TALKS WITH GREECE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, THAT IS, BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS, IS UNTHINKABLE, BECAUSE SUCH MEETINGS ARE NOT USEFUL UNLESS COMMON GROUND HAS BEEN WORKED OUT. IF AN ATMOSPHERE CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN WHICH THE TALKS CAN BEGIN, THE LEVEL CAN BE QUICKLY DECIDED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES--IT WON'T BE DIFFICULT."

4. HURRIYET CONTINUED WHAT HAS BECOME A SERIES OF ARTICLES QUOTING BELLIGERENT TALK FROM UNNAMED "CIRCLES CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT," BUT RELEGATED AUGUST 24'S ARTICLE TO AN INSIDE PAGE. THE PAPER'S SOURCES STATE THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WILL BRING BEFORE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL THE QUESTION OF GREECE'S ARMAMENT OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS AND THAT IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CANNOT BRING ABOUT DISARMAMENT OF THE ISLANDS, "TURKEY WILL DO ON ITS OWN WHAT IS NECESSARY AND WILL STRIP THE ISLANDS OF ARMAMENT."

5. PRESS AUGUST 24 ALSO PUBLISHED CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS HIRED TWO US PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRMS TO PRESENT ITS CASE TO US PUBLIC OPINION AND CONGRESS. CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED SEPTEMBER 5 1975, WITH MANNING, SALVAGE, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND LEE INC. (WHICH WAS TO HANDLE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY), AND MCNUTT, DUBLEY EASTERWEED AND LOSCH (WHICH WAS TO LOBBY CONGRESS). THE FIRST FIRM WAS REPLACED MARCH 1, 1976, BY EDELMAN INTERNATIONAL CORP. THE TOPICS TO BE WORKED ON BY THE FIRMS INCLUDE POPPIES, THE EMBARGO, AND CYPRUS. MACOMBER

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